



**CITY OF DANBURY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
19 NEW STREET  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**T. J. Wiedl  
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550  
Fax 203-796-1552**

**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 through October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and details activities of the Department.

Lieutenant Nick Cabral was chosen as our Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year. LT Cabral was hired by Danbury Fire Department in July 2006 and was promoted to Lieutenant in December 2013. He previously served in the US Army as a chemical operations specialist, holding the rank of Corporal. LT Cabral recently led the Fire Service Day open house committee and serves on the turnout gear testing, evaluation, and selection committee. He has also served as chair of the Department's Health and Safety Committee, during which time he helped develop a number of current practices and policies. Nick was honored with a banquet at Anthony's Lake Club on October 6<sup>th</sup> and at the statewide dinner at the Aqua Turf on October 20<sup>th</sup>.



The Grand Opening of our Fire School was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house:



### **Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

Crews toured Kennedy Flats. Members working extended duration Fire Watch at Abbey Woods had the chance to get very familiar with Building 5.

Fire Prevention Month has had crews busy delivering Fire Safety talks. E22 and E24 delivered a presentation to 200 children at Head Start School on Foster St. E23 delivered a presentation to the Head Start School at Laurel Gardens. A presentation was delivered to 30 children at Interfaith Daycare on Osborne Street. We also had 80 children from Hayestown School come for a tour of HQ. E22 gave a fire safety talk to 60 kindergarteners at Mill Ridge School this period. E25 crew presented a session on "character traits of firefighters" and fire prevention and safety to 70 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 200 1<sup>st</sup> grade and kindergarten students at Pembroke School.

The Annual Day of Service brought volunteers from WCSU who came to wash the fire trucks.

### **Suppression / Response Activities of Note**

An extrication was performed on I84 for a woman whose vehicle hit a reported stopped tractor trailer. The successful extrication was effected quickly, considering the scope of damage, and contributed to a reported successful outcome for the victim, who had significant partial avulsion of her left arm. E26, E24, SQ1, T1, C30, EMS, SPD and SQ6 participated.

An incident resulted in extrication on Sugar Hollow Road of a man whose vehicle appeared to have crossed lanes and hit a vehicle travelling the opposite direction. There was a considerable debris field and incursion of the subject vehicle. A full complement of SRS airbags likely accounted for what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries to the occupant. Assignment was E26, E22, SQ1, T1, C30, EMS and DPD.

Another extrication occurred on South King Street of a female driver of a light dump truck rolled over. Crews gained access by removing the windshield. She was uninjured. E25, E22, SQ1, T1 and C30 responded with EMS and DPD.

The incident on North Street involved extrication of a cyclist from underneath a vehicle. The victim had been run over and was unresponsive on arrival. Crews used Rescue Jacks and airbags to lift the vehicle off the victim. Although the extrication was expeditious and a trauma code activated, the victim unfortunately did not recover from his injuries. DPD, TAC1, SQ1, T1, E22, E23, C30 and EMS responded.

Crews responded to two land searches in Tarrywile Park during the past month. One was very quickly resolved, while another one was more complex as the lost person was intoxicated and continued to move in the woods. With the assistance of the Danbury Police, a Bethel Police K-9, and the Resources in Search and Rescue (RSAR) K-9s, the endangered man was located after a four hour search. The man was located in his pajamas, wet and suffering from exposure. If not for the tenacity of our searchers, the man would not have fared well in the woods on a night with temperatures in the 40's.

### **Donations**

We have received a \$500 grant from the Spectra Foundation for the purchase of smoke detectors.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Aging in Place Council press conference & walk
- Flag retirement ceremony for Captain Dave Easter
- Fire School Ribbon Cutting and Open House
- Annual Old Timers Dinner (for retired FF Pete Radlet)
- Annual Fire Dept. Awards Ceremony
- Exchange Club FF of the Year dinner for Lt. Cabral
- Ridgefield Fire Dept. Retirement Dinner for three members
- Dinner/meeting with Volunteer FF leadership

- CT Annual Exchange Club Firefighters of the Year Awards - Aqua Turf
- Volunteer Fire Council meeting
- City Council meeting
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee



Captain Easter's flag retirement ceremony

### **EMS/HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez**

#### **EMS Wednesday**

The focus for the next several months will be CPR for the professional rescuer certification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillator. Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

#### **EMT Re-Certification**

Eleven individuals are scheduled to take their State of Connecticut EMT re-certification test and practical on October 20, 2016 at 6:30 at the Danbury Fire Department Fire School.

#### **Regional HAZMAT**

Four Entry Rae 4 Gas/Photo Ionization Detectors have been returned to service after being serviced by the manufacturer. The cost of this service was covered by Region Five.

#### **EMS Supervisors Meeting**

The monthly EMS supervisor's meeting was held at Danbury Hospital and the following topics were discussed:

- Education
- Trauma
- Stroke
- Statewide protocols

## **Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers**

### *Volunteer Division*

#### **Fire Fighter One**

Approximately 21 fire fighter one students are taking full advantage of FF-1 program offered at the new fire facility.

#### **Quarterly Training**

Third Quarter training is scheduled to be completed by late October. Fourth quarter live burn training is scheduled from November through early December. All live burn training will take place at our fire school facility.

#### **Hose Testing**

Companies are in the process of the annual fire hose testing.

### *Career Division*

#### **Fire School Grand Opening**

Members of the community were in attendance to support the grand opening on the new Fire School Classroom facility.

#### **Rescue Week**

Members attended advanced Rescue classes at the CT Fire Academy in early October where the Annual “Rescue Week” was held.

#### **Hydrant**

The annual hydrant testing program runs until the end of October and 98% of the city’s 2,100 hydrants were tested to date.

#### **Fire Officer 2**

We are hosting the CT Fire Academy’s FO-2 certification course which runs through early December.

#### **Hose Testing**

All crews are near completion of annual hose testing.

#### **Meetings and events:**

- ☐ Sept 25 - Ribbon cutting and Fire Service Day
- ☐ Sept 28 - ARFF Training Westover MA
- ☐ Sept 29 - Public Services Division chain saw class
- ☐ Oct 1 - Brookfield Live Burn
- ☐ Oct 2 - Volunteer 3rd Quarter Training
- ☐ Oct 6 - Volunteer 3rd Quarter Training
- ☐ Oct 11 - Bail Out Demo
- ☐ Oct 18 - Live Burn C-group
- ☐ October – Multiple FF-1 Classes and multiple FO2 Classes





### **Communications – Communications Coordinator Jamie Gagliardo**

- Received the remaining parts of the portable radio replacement project from our vendor Northeastern. The new radios are in the process of being field tested and will be distributed to the firefighters in a few weeks.
- Communications worked through a few radio system malfunctions due to circuit issues, all problems were resolved with the help of Frontier Communications.
- Attended the Fire Department Public Information Officer course held by the Connecticut Fire Academy hosted in Stamford. Part of the Communications Coordinator's position is to represent the Danbury Fire Department when communicating with the public and the media. In the next few weeks the Communications Coordinator will work with Assistant Chief Omasta, our current P.I.O., and transition the duties and responsibilities.
- The Pump Committee has recently been informed that the new apparatus are now on the assembly line at the Pierce Factory in Wisconsin. Expected delivery is January 2017.
- A few hours was spent at the Police Department inputting MDC's (Motorola Data Communications - Unit ID signaling) that will allow the dispatchers to see which unit is transmitting from the field to dispatch.
- A meeting was held at the Abbey Lane Water Tank which is a future radio site for the Fire Department. We met with the radio vendor and the water department to finalize the concept before it goes out to the radio engineers. This site will drastically help radio communications on the West side of the city.

Additional meetings were held at other current radio sites for some equipment upgrades.

- Worked with the Training Division in teaching a portion of the Volunteer Division quarterly training. Radio communications is a topic that requires ongoing training which creates proficiency in our emergency communications. This month's topics were CL&P response priorities along with other refresher training.
- Worked as a Safety Officer for a live burn at the fire school for Brookfield Fire Department who was doing a Firefighter II Course.
- Responded to a structure fire on Mill Plain road at the Mill Plain Diner assisting the incident commander with radio communications and resource management.
- Worked with Frontier Communications to switch over some old style phone line communications equipment with updated hardware at the Harvest Hill radio receive site.
- Attended the first of four live burns conducted with the career division. Communications presented a radio upgrade presentation to the group and will do the same for the remaining crews.
- Worked with the City IT department to upgrade our headquarters training room with new computers. These computers will better support our firefighters with their required online fire training.
- Ongoing projects:
  - Radio system infrastructure upgrades including replacement mobile and portable radios for all fire department members and apparatus with assistance from Northeastern Communications.
  - The Communications Division and the Training Division is in the process of updating many of the Danbury Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures. Once updates and additions are drafted they go through a review process prior to being placed in the live version.
  - Updates to the computer aided dispatch system are ongoing as information is received by responders. Anytime a new business opens or a new home is constructed, a system input is required.

## **Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo**

Old Truck-1 at the fire school was out of service due to an undetermined and difficult hydraulic issue. After many hours of searching it was discovered that the Emergency Power Unit Blocking Valve had broken and the pieces lodged in the hydraulic system. This blockage caused the restriction of hydraulic fluid thus causing the outriggers to move slowly. The valve has been replaced and this unit is back in service. We washed and performed a complete service of the ladder on Truck-2 and are hopeful that before the weather changes to service Trk-1's ladder. We have ground ladder testing scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and are currently working with Underwriter Laboratories for the scheduling of the Non Destructive Testing (NDT) on our ladder trucks.

Other repairs completed:

- Repaired air reel in Squad-1
- Repaired oil leak from compressor on Trk-1
- Serviced pick-up: new shocks, service brakes, rotated tires
- Repaired damage to E-2
- Replaced deck gun valve and primer cable E-2
- Repaired LDH valve E-26
- Repaired hose tester, ordered new gauge
- Replaced 4 tires E-25
- Replaced 6 tires E-23
- Replaced 1 tire Trk-1 (old)
- Serviced 06F4, new brakes (4), new radiator
- Serviced 14PL

## **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell**

### **Inspections**

This month we inspected 228 apartments. We also did 37 misc. inspections, 18 liquor inspections, 25 places of assembly, 39 businesses, and 18 educational occupancies. There were 5 health care and 6 mercantile inspections. We have also been working with the UNIT and Health Department to find illegal living spaces and overcrowded apartments.

### **Plan Reviews**

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 68 hours reviewing plans for the Danbury Fair Mall, 7 Backus Ave, 3 Great Pasture Rd, 7 Commerce Dr, 345 Main St, 120 Main St, 15 Starr Rd, 36 Mill Plain Rd, 15 Old Mill Plain Rd, 2 Prindle La, 4 Mountain View Rd, 15 Old Newtown Rd, 131 West St, 7 National Pl, 15 Thorpe St, Danbury Hospital, and several others.

### **Fire Investigations**

This month we had 3 building fires, 4 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires, and 1 vehicle fire. Investigations were done on all fires per CT State Statutes.



## Training

This month we attended 28 hours of continuing education training. We also trained on using our Fire Extinguisher Training Prop. This prop uses propane to simulate a real fire, and uses special fire extinguishers to put out the fire. It gives people a real feel for using a fire extinguisher in a safe and clean manner. We gave classes to two corporations on how to use fire extinguishers in their homes as well as in the work place.

## Ongoing Projects

Kennedy Flats Apartments is in the process of finishing their last building to complete the 374 unit apartment complex. Completion of this project should be sometime in November of this year.

## Staff

The Month of October is Fire Safety Month across the country. Our Deputy Fire Marshals have been doing a great job giving Fire Safety Presentations to all the schools in Danbury. We have been in one or two schools per day giving our Fire Prevention talks using videos and speaking to every elementary student in the City of Danbury. We speak to both public and private school students. This program is vital in teaching fire safety to our young people. It also helps when the children bring home the message of Fire Safety to their families.

## This Month's Events

September 25 – We attended the open house at our new Fire Training Facility on Plumtrees Rd. We demonstrated our Fire Extinguisher Training Prop, which uses propane to simulate a fire.

## FIRE SPRINKLER DEMONSTRATION – HOME DEPOT FIRE SAFETY DAY

September 29 – With the help of the Truck Company and two Engine Companies, we set up our two burn rooms for the Home Depot Fire Safety Day on Oct. 1.

October 1 – We worked at the Home Depot Fire Safety Day. Our office had a table inside Home Depot giving out Fire Prevention Material and answering Fire Safety Questions. This was very much appreciated by the public.

We also held a Sprinkler Demonstration out in the parking lot of Home Depot. Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Bruce narrated and did a fabulous job. We built two 8 ft. X 8 ft. rooms out of 2x4's and sheet rock (with material donated by Home Depot). We built the rooms by building 2 ft. x 4 ft. panels with door hinges at different points on the panels so that we can build and take apart and reuse the rooms year after year by using the hinge pins to hold it together.

The rooms were set up side by side in the parking lot of Home Depot. We place donated furniture in the rooms and try to make them look alike. We also install smoke alarms in each room. The demonstration shows how the room with a sprinkler in it puts out the fire in seconds, and shows how fast the fire continues to grow in the unprotected room. It also shows how fast smoke alarms work, even in a small fire. We let the unprotected room burn to “flashover”, which is when all the contents in the room ignite at one time. Of course we have fire crews on scene to put the fire out, and every form of safety is in place during and after the fires. This demonstration also shows the destruction of a fire after only a couple of minutes vs. very little damage in the room that was sprinkler protected. We had a lot of help from our fire crews, as well as our volunteer companies, which helped put out the fires.

The Volunteer Fire Companies also had a demonstration using the Jaws of Life to dismantle a car in the parking lot. Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Bruce also did a great job narrating that demonstration.

October 2 – Attended our Awards Ceremony held at Fire Headquarters.

October 18 – Attended a Pipe Line Safety Conference in Brewster, NY. The conference was put on by Spectra Energy. It was very informative and timely, as the gas transmission lines running through Danbury have recently been updated in size and pressures.

October 20 – Attended the Fire Fighter of the Year Awards Dinner at the Aqua Turf Convention Center in Plantsville. The Fire Fighter of the Year honored from Danbury was Lt. Nick Cabral.

### **Department Statistical Reports**

#### **Community Risk Reduction**

Monthly inspections	385
Abatements issued	3
Violations issued	2
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	7
Fire Safety Programs	24

#### **Public Safety Answering Point**

Total 911 calls	3040
Cellular 911 calls	2226
Abandoned 911 calls	314
Admin calls received	839